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- 2. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) SEQ ID NO:19;
  - (b) SEQ ID\NO:19, where T can also be U; and
  - fragments of a) or b) that are at least 15 contiguous bases in length and that will hybridize to DNA which encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:28; wherein the isolated polynucleotide encodes a thermostable phosphatase, or an enzymatically active fragment thereof.

Jul 2 - 5.

(Amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a thermostable phosphatase, or an enzymatically active fragment thereof, comprising a polynucleotide having at least 70% identity to a member selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polynucleotide encoding an enzyme encoded by the DNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. 97379, wherein said enzyme is obtained from Ammonifex degenesii KC4;
- (b) a polynucleotide complementary to the polynucleotide of (a); and
- (c) a polynucleotide comprising at least 15 contiguous bases of the polynucleotide of (a); wherein the polynucleotide has thermostable phosphatase activity.

Jul 3)

(Amended) A thermostable phosphatase of which at least a portion is encoded by a polynucleotide of claim 1, and which is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a thermostable phosphatase comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% identical to an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:28; and
- (b) a thermostable phosphatase which comprises at least 30 contiguous amino acid residues of the enzyme of (a).

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(Amended) An enzyme of which at least a portion is encoded by a polynucleotide of claim 1, and which is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a thermostable phosphatase comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group of amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:28; and
- (b) a thermostable phosphatase which comprises at least 30 contiguous amino acid residues of the enzyme of (a).